

Message Text

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01
ACDA-07 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 FEAE-00 NEA-10 IO-13
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R 171404Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3135
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US
SUBJECT: SOVIET ASSESSMENTS OF THE CARTER CABINET

REF: (A) MOSCOW 294, (B) MOSCOW 618

SUMMARY: SOVIET TV VIEWERS WERE TREATED TO A CAUTIOUSLY
OPTIMISTIC ASSESSMENT OF KEY FIGURES IN THE CARTER CABI-
NET BY USA INSTITUTE DEPUTY DIRECTOR VITALIY ZHURKIN
AND TASS DIRECTOR GENERAL LEONID ZAMYATIN DURING PRIME
TIME EVENING OF JANUARY 13. SIMILAR ASSESSMENT, ALBEIT
WITH MORE FLAVORFUL DETAIL, WAS GIVEN AT MOSCOW'S CENTRAL
PUBLIC LECTURE HALL EVENING OF JANUARY 12. JUDGING
FROM THESE PRESENTATIONS, AS WELL AS FROM RECENT PRIVATE
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CONVERSATIONS WE HAVE HAD, THE BASIC SOVIET VIEW OF
PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S APPOINTMENTS IN THE FOREIGN
AFFAIRS FIELD SEEMS TO BE "SO FAR, SO GOOD." END
SUMMARY.

1. VALENTIN ZORIN'S COMMENTARY SHOW "NINTH STUDIO"
JANUARY 13 FEATURED ANALYSIS OF LEADING FIGURES

IN FOREIGN POLICY FIELD IN CARTER ADMINISTRATION
BY USA INSTITUTE DEPUTY DIRECTOR ZHURKIN (RESPON-
SIBLE FOR U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AS WELL AS U.S.
INTERNAL POLITICS) AND TASS DIRECTOR GENERAL
ZAMYATIN. ZHURKIN LED OFF WITH A BRIEF SKETCH OF
THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS (HE HAD NOTES IN FRONT
OF HIM BUT SELDOM REFERRED TO THEM AS HE SPOKE):

-- CYRUS VANCE: SERVED AS DEPUTY SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE DURING "VIETNAM YEARS"; THEN WORKED FOR
A LARGE WALL STREET LAW FIRM; RECENTLY HAS SPOKEN
OUT IN FAVOR OF ARMS LIMITATION AND BETTER U.S.-
SOVIET RELATIONS; HAS BEEN TO THE SOVIET UNION
SEVERAL TIMES IN HIS CAPACITY AS MEMBER OF THE
UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION;

-- ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI: WELL KNOWN TO READERS
OF THE SOVIET PRESS AS A PROMINENT "SOVIETOLO-
GIST;" HAS IN RECENT YEARS BROADENED HIS PERSPEC-
TIVE TO GLOBAL INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY
IN HIS CAPACITY AS ONE OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE
TRILATERAL COMMISSION; IN MAKING THIS TRANSITION,
HE HAS "BECOME MORE REALISTIC" AND IN HIS LATEST
SPEECHES HAS CALLED FOR BETTER U.S.-SOVIET
RELATIONS AND HAS ALSO APPROVED OF AGREEMENTS
BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE USSR;

-- HAROLD BROWN: A PHYSICIST AND HIGH DEFENSE
DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL DURING VIETNAM, WHO AT THAT
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TIME WAS DESCRIBED AS A HAWK ON THE VIETNAMESE
WAR BUT A DOVE ON DISARMAMENT; HE PARTICIPATED IN
THE SALT TALKS, HAS SPOKEN IN FAVOR OF DISARMA-
MENT AND HAS CALLED FOR "RADICAL STEPS" IN THAT
FIELD; ZAMYATIN ADDED THAT A TENDENCY EXISTED
FOR U.S. SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE TO BE PUSHED TO
THE RIGHT BY PRESSURE FROM THE MILITARY ESTABLISH-
MENT; ZHURKIN AGREED AND CONCLUDED THAT ONE WOULD
HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE HOW BROWN RESPONDED TO THESE
PRESSURES;

-- MICHAEL BLUMENTHAL: HEAD OF THE BENDIX
CORPORATION, WHICH IS HEAVILY INVOLVED IN THE
AEROSPACE FIELD; HE IS EXPECTED TO PLAY A STRONG
ROLE IN FOREIGN POLICY AND HAS SAID HE FAVORS
INCREASED U.S. FOREIGN TRADE;

-- THEODORE SORENSEN: ZHURKIN SAID HE WAS
PERSONALLY "VERY SURPRISED" AT THIS APPOINTMENT;

SORENSEN WAS A LAWYER AND PROFESSOR WHO HAD NEVER BEEN IN CHARGE OF A LARGE ORGANIZATION; DURING THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION HE SERVED PRIMARILY AS A SPEECHWRITER; ZAMYATIN INTERJECTED THAT SORENSEN WAS KNOWN TO BE A "GOOD ANALYST", AND PERHAPS THAT EXPLAINED HIS APPOINTMENT; ZHURKIN ADDED THAT ONE HEARD RUMORS OF "SHARP STUGGLE" SURROUNDING THIS APPOINTMENT, AND ONE SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THAT SORENSEN IS CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH WALL STREET;

-- JAMES SCHLESINGER: ALMOST ALL OBSERVERS (SAID ZHURKIN) AGREED THAT SCHLESINGER WAS "A MAN OF THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX" AND A HAWK; HIS APPOINTMENT PERHAPS WAS A CONCESSION TO THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX; IN RESPONSE TO MODERATOR ZORIN'S INTERJECTION THAT SCHLESINGER HAD NOT AFTER ALL BEEN MADE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE OR CIA DIRECTOR, CONFIDENTIAL

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TOR, ZHURKIN POINTED OUT THAT AS ENERGY BOSS SCHLESINGER WOULD BE INVOLVED IN U.S.-ARAB RELATIONS, THE SUPPLY OF OIL TO THE U.S. ARMED FORCES, AS WELL AS ENERGY POLICIES OF VITAL CONCERN TO U.S. ALLIES.

2. BY WAY OF A WRAP-UP, ZHURKIN SAID THAT WHILE PERSONAL VIEWS OF EACH APPOINTEE WERE IMPORTANT, THE ESSENTIAL FACTOR IN EVALUATING THE ABOVE MEN WAS THAT ALL OF THEM WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF "THE RULING CIRCLES IN THE U.S. AND THUS WOULD REFLECT THE POLICIES OF THESE CIRCLES.

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3. ZAMYATIN THEN COMMENTED THAT THE GENERAL
FOREIGN POLICY ORIENTATION OF THE U.S. WAS AT PRES-
ENT "COMPLEX" BECAUSE OF TWO OPPOSING TENDENCIES:

-- A TENDENCY TOWARD RELAXATION OF INTER-
NATIONAL TENSION, WHICH WAS WELL REPRESENTED
IN THE CARTER TEAM; INDEED, THE PRESIDENT-ELECT
HIMSELF HAD RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO GENERAL
SECRETARY BREZHNEV'S CALL FOR IMPROVED U.S.-SOVIET
RELATIONS; AND

-- AN ANTI-SOVIET TENDENCY, AS ILLUSTRATED BY
THE RECENTLY PUBLICIZED VIEW THAT THE
USSR SOUGHT MILITARY SUPERIORITY AND WAS UNDER-
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TAKING MILITARY-POLITICAL EXPANSION; PROPONENTS
OF THIS VIEW HOPED TO SEE A LARGER U.S. MILITARY
BUDGET AND ALSO WISHED TO IMPEDE THE PRESIDENT-
ELECT'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE U.S.- SOVIET RELATIONS.

4. AT A JANUARY 12 ZNANIYE SOCIETY LECTURE,
INDIVIDUALS IN THE CARTER CABINET WERE CHARACTERIZED
ALONG THE ABOVE LINES, ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE DIFFERENCES
ARE WORTH MENTION. THE LECTURERS, NOVOSTI
CORRESPONDENTS SPEAKING GENERALLY ABOUT CURRENT
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, NOTED THAT:

-- VANCE SEEMED TO HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH
TO MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS, WHILE KISSINGER TRIED TO
SETTLE ME PROBLEMS IN HIS OWN WAY, "UNREALISTI-
CALLY;" ON HUMAN RIGHTS, HOWEVER, VANCE HAS MADE
STATEMENTS FAVORING SUCH "ANTI-SOVIETS" INDIVIDUALS
AS ANDREY AMALRIK;

-- BREZEZINSKI "MADE HIMSELF POPULAR" IN THE U.S. BY HIS EARLY ANTI-SOVIETISM, THEN IN STYLE WITH THE "ESTABLISHMENT;" BRZEZINSKI HAD AT THAT TIME EVEN THANKED THE USSR FOR ENHANCING HIS POPULARITY BY CRITICIZING HIM IN THE SOVIET PRESS;

-- BROWN'S VIEWS WERE MUCH PREFERABLE TO THOSE OF SCHLSINGER, JACKSON AND THE ORGANIZED LABOR LEADERSHIP WHICH OPPOSED BROWN'S NOMINATION;

-- YOUNG (NOT MENTIONED ON THE TV PROGRAH) WAS CHOSEN BECAUSE CARTER WISHED TO HAVE A BLACK AMERICAN AT THE U.N. WHO COULD, UNLIKE MOYNIHAN, WORK WITH THE THIRD WORLD DELEGATIONS.

5. A WRITTEN QUESTION FROM THE AUDIENCE ASKED IF THE PRESENCE OF BROWN AND BLUMENTHAL IN KEY CABINET CONFIDENTIAL

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POSTS WAS NOT FURTHER EVIDENCE OF ZIONIST INFLUENCE IN THE U.S. THE NOVOSTI LECTURERS DENIED THIS, POINTING OUT THAT BLUMENTHAL WAS AN OLD FRIEND AND EARLY SUPPORTER OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT AND HAD WORKED WITH CARTER ON THE TRILATERAL COMMISSION. BROWN WAS NOT CHOSEN BECAUSE HE WAS JEWISH, THEY SAID, BUT BECAUSE OF HIS EXPERIENCE IN DEFENSE AND ARMS CONTROL AS WELL AS BECAUSE HIS OPINIONS WERE CLOSE TO THOSE OF CARTER.

6. COMMENT: NOT ONLY WERE MANY DETAILS THE SAME AS IN BYKOV'S PRIVATE PRESENTATION (REF B), BUT THE ESSENTIAL MESSAGE OF THE TV PROGRAM AND THE LECTURE WAS ALSO CLOSE TO THAT WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED PRIVATELY: AT THIS STAGE THE EXPRESSED SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD THE LEADING FIGURES WHO WILL DEAL WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS IN GENERAL NOTABLY POSITIVE. AT THE SAME TIME, IN THE MINDS OF SOVIET ANALYSTS, THE PICTURE HAS SOME SOMBER HUES IN IT, REGARDING SOME INDIVIDUALS AND PARTICULARLY REGARDING "ANTI-DETENTE PRESSURES" THESE INDIVIDUALS SUPPOSEDLY WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ONCE IN OFFICE. THESE COULD BECOME DARKER WITH TIME, IF LACK OF PROGRESS FEEDS SOVIET ANALYTICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BAD OR WEAK GUYS. BUT THE CURRENT SOVIET ASSESSMENT OF THE CARTER CABINET SEEMS TO BE "SO FAR, SO GOOD."
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